

8 Apr 217

Martialis had a private grievance against Caracalla. His brother had been executed a few days earlier on a charge which had not been proved. Macrinus and Martialis were both included in the party which accompanied Caracalla on 8 Apr from Edessa to CARTHAE. The emperor had a stomach upset and ordered a halt while he went to relieve himself. A single attendant went with Caracalla, the rest of his guard turned their backs for respect of the emperor's privacy. Martialis turned

forward and killed Caracalla with a single sword thrust while he was lowering his breeches.

The assassin took to horse & fled, but one of Caracalla's mounted bodyguard brought him down with a jordan. Macrinus, meanwhile, feigned innocence, countering the emperor's death with the rest. The body of Caracalla was duly cremated, and the ashes sent to Julia Domna in Antioch. He was very young. The urn was carried back to Rome, and laid in the mausoleum of Hadrian. The ashes of Julia-Domna a few weeks later. Some months later were deified by ELAGABALUS.

217 A.D.

After a renaissance of Olympic  
games in 3rd century A.D. (113-200)  
and after the games of 217  
interest in the games steadily  
declined